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19 FEB 1964

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Copy No. 1

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Science and Technology)

SUBJECT: Reporting on Reconnaissance Missions
for the Special Group

REFERENCE: Attached Study to DD/S&T, Same Subject,
13 February 1964, signed by Assistant
Directors, OSA, OSI and [redacted]

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1. Subsequent to the last meeting in your office on the matter of high altitude reconnaissance mission reports for the Special Group, OSI, in the person of [redacted] has undertaken to prepare for you a series of recommended alternatives on this matter. The work has now been completed and has the concurrence of the Assistant Directors of OSA, OSI and [redacted]

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2. I believe you would be wise to acquaint yourself with the content of the attached document, and have the benefit of the advice of your staff, such advice being herein included, prior to convening another meeting of interested parties on this subject. There follows, then, a brief analysis of the joint report and my own advice concerning a course to pursue. I am asking [redacted] to review the attachment plus my own comments and attach his position also to this file for you.

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3. The recommendations of the joint group offer both functional and time-span alternatives. The functional alternatives are between verbal briefings and hard-cover reports. The time-span alternatives are on an elapsed time after mission completion of three days, ten days, and sixty to seventy-five days, and a quarterly summary for flights in a given area during the previous quarter. The quantitative and qualitative content of the time-span alternatives obviously vary widely. However, the scope of coverage is most closely correlated between the ten-day and the sixty-day period.

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4. In the ten-day period, the following items would be discussed, to the degree that all inputs from various geographical locations and government agencies allows:

[Redacted]

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b. Pilot's Report: Visual sightings, deviations, reactions, cloud cover. - Field [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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e. Developed film package: Received by NPIC from [Redacted] Rochester.

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[Redacted]

g. IPIR: Immediate PI report of Mission. - NPIC

In the sixty to seventy-five day time-span report, the following differences would occur:

a. Added to the coverage listed above would be:

(1)

[Redacted]

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(2) MCI: Mission Coverage Index -
Finalized PI report; Mission Plot -
Route flown determined from
photography.

b. Greater quantitative and qualitative coverage undoubtedly would be available on the seven points listed above.

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5. I would suggest that by a process of inverse reasoning you elect to adopt the ten-day hard-cover mechanism for the Special Group (see Attachment 1 to joint report). My recommendation is predicated on the following reason. The two-three day time-span report represents an insufficient time period to compile a meaningful report and represents a quicker reaction time than the weekly meetings of the Special Group dictate. The sixty to seventy-five day report on a single mission basis will represent too much information submitted too late. I would tend to doubt if much enthusiasm for such a reporting mechanism will be shown by a national level group reading an overly-detailed report on an event that transpired more than two months in past history. It is also possible, to my mind, that events in this fast-moving world may well take place in the sixty-day period from event to report which will tend to depreciate the content of or the interest in the report itself. I hold the same views when considering a quarterly report of missions flown in a given area. I believe again too much information is being submitted too late. Secondly, you would end up with two different reporting mechanisms to the Special Group. One would be the quarterly summary for given area flights, plus another reporting mechanism for individual flights over different area. I do not believe this is a wise course of action.

6. It is my recommendation that, for a reasonable period of time, you adopt the ten-day hard-cover reporting mechanism, on a mission by mission basis, to the Special Group. After a reasonable number of reports have been issued, it would then be wise to survey the reaction of the members to this mechanism.

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JOHN F. BLAKE
Executive Officer
Deputy Director
(Science and Technology)

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REMARKS: I have studied [] proposals and Jack Blake's comments thereon. I concur in the recommendation contained in Paragraph 6 with the observation that this system should be satisfactory where no particularly flap-worthy developments took place during a mission. When considered necessary, therefore, an earlier written or verbal report might be necessary to satisfy the circumstances.
request

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Appended document contains classified information within the meaning of Section 798, Title 18, United States Code.

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